Pearson recapitulates the Neyman–Pearson approach which leads to the theory of testing hypotheses, noting that many of the issues which Barnard and Savage now introduce as tangible concepts were at least considered by that school. Dr. Smith points out the common neglect of checking initial assumptions, distinguishes between inference and decision problems, classifies significance tests as non-Bayesian and finally favours estimation as nearly always more relevant than significance testing.

The discussion that follows in Part III would take too long to review. Suffice it to say that the discussants raise many interesting issues and examples which serve to show more clearly than heretofore just where the various protagonists stand or differ in their views.

This little book from the excellent Methuen stable is a "must" for the theoretical statistician and all students of statistical inference, as well as light but instructive entertainment for the industrial statistician who sometimes wonders what all the fuss is about.

W. D. RAY

Introduction to Electronic Data Processing Equipment: its operation and control.

ROBERT V. OAKFORD.

McGraw-Hill, New York, 1962. xi + 340 *pp*. 77*s*. 6*d*.

This book is one of the McGraw-Hill "Series in Information Processing and Computers", and as such is beautifully printed and produced. The author claims to "explain how to communicate with electronic computers and auxiliary punched card equipment", and his approach is interesting in that he discusses existing rather than hypothetical equipment and languages. The first six chapters very adequately cover the various aspects of programming a "first-generation" computer and its peripheral equipment, the I.B.M. 650 being the machine considered. This was selected on the assumption "that the average reader is more likely to be exposed to I.B.M. equipment than any other kind". While this is true of the U.S.A. it does not apply in the U.K. where to my knowledge, of 474 installations, only 75 are I.B.M. machines, and of these 13 are 650's. To get the fullest value from this section of the book a copy of the appropriate I.B.M. programming manual would be valuable, or so one feels. The final chapter discusses BALGOL (the Burroughs 220 dialect of ALGOL), and this is most valuable in that it gives an excellent introduction to algorithmic language programming. Finally, an Appendix on the I.B.M. 650 Program Test Supervisory Routine and a good index are included.

This book cannot be recommended to operational research workers in general, and it will only be of interest to the serious student (or experienced) programmer. Its cost puts it beyond most pockets.

JOHN S. HAMPTON